

# Sharps and Laboratory Glass Disposal

## NEEDLES AND OTHER SHARPS

**Sharps:** Items designed to cut or puncture skin and sharp items contaminated with human blood and body fluids.

- Needles and syringes with needles
- Lancets
- Scalpels and razor blades
- Contaminated broken vials, hematocrit tubes, Pasteur pipettes and laboratory slides



**OSHA-Approved Sharps Container:** Closable, puncture resistant, leakproof, plastic sharps container.

**Obtain from:** Laboratory supply/safety catalog.



### Disposal Procedure:

- Collect in an OSHA-approved sharps container.
- When full take to a sharps collection area and deposit container in the red plastic collection can. (Ask your building manager for the location)



## HAZARDOUS GLASS AND PLASTIC

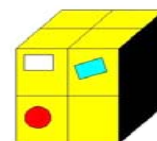
**Hazardous Glass and Plastic:** Items that can injure if disposed of in normal trash containers.

- Pasteur pipettes
- Other pipettes and tips
- Uncontaminated slides and cover slips
- Broken or fragile glass



### Sturdy, Leakproof Cardboard Boxes:

- Use plastic liner.
- Double box or tape seams to contain waste.
- Use packing tape, not lab tape or masking tape.
- Limit weight to 20 lbs.
- Limit bottom size to 12"x12"
- Use discarded boxes or obtain boxes from a lab supply catalog.



### Disposal Procedure:

- If contaminated with infectious agents or human blood, decontaminate first.
- Empty the item of hazardous chemicals and drain liquids.
- Tape box closed.
- Mark box with the words "Hazardous Glass for Disposal" and your room number.
- Place in hallway next to your lab door.

## EMPTY BOTTLES, OTHER GLASS AND PLASTIC

### Unbroken Glass and Plastic:

Items that present no hazard if disposed of as normal trash.

- Petri dishes (decontaminated)
- Sturdy test and centrifuge tubes
- Empty bottles



### Regular Lab Wastebasket

### Disposal Procedure:

- If contaminated with infectious agents or human blood, decontaminate first.
- Empty the item of hazardous chemicals, rinse and drain liquids.
- Place in wastebasket
- Place large (4 liter) bottles next to wastebasket.



Some buildings (for example, Chemistry and the University Hospital) may have their own disposal methods. Contact your building manager.

(rev. Aug. 2002)